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THE AMERICAN MERCURY.

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MONDAY,

July 12, 1784.

HARTFORD: By BARLOW AND BABCOCK.

BARLOW & BABCOCK

HAVE eſtabliſhed a new PRINTING-OFFICE near the STATE-HOUSE, in the City of HARTFORD.

They propoſe publiſhing a WEEKLY PAPER, entitled,

THE

AMERICAN MERCURY.

AS they have a proſpect of a very extenſive circulation and correſpondence, they will exert their utmoſt abilities to furniſh a uſeful and elegant entertainment for the different claſſes of their cuſtomers.

CONDITIONS.

THE Paper will be a ſheet of white demi, impreſſed with an elegant new type, publiſhed every Monday morning and delivered to ſubſcribers in the City, at eight ſhillings the year; one half to be paid on delivery of the firſt Number, the other at the end of the year.

To Gentlemen at a diſtance who ſend for ſingle papers encloſed and directed, five ſhillings paid on ſubſcribing, or ſeven at the end of the year.

To Poſts, by the Quantity, at a reaſonable abatement.

THE firſt Number will be publiſhed on the ſecond Monday of July next.

IN order to render the publication as uſeful as poſſible, the publiſhers propoſe occupying the firſt page, with regular extracts, from Cook's laſt voyage (publiſhed by Authority in London, and lately come to hand) until the whole of that valuable and original courſe of diſcoveries ſhall be communicated to their cuſtomers; who will thus, in the courſe of one year's papers, be poſſeſſed of the whole of that celebrated work, which is now ſold at four dollars.

THERE will likewiſe be inſerted in a ſupplement, if there is not room in the ſheet, all the future acts and reſolves of the States of Connecticut and Maſſachuſetts.

ADVERTISEMENTS will be inſerted at a reaſonable price; uſeful Eſſays and articles of intelligence duly noticed.

N. B. Said BARLOW and BABCOCK have opened for ſale a general and elegant aſſortment of BOOKS and STATIONARY.

Hartford, July 12, 1784.

AN AUTHENTIC
NARRATIVE
OF A
VOYAGE
PERFORMED BY
Captain COOK and Captain CLERKE,
IN HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS
RESOLUTION AND DISCOVERY,
During the Years 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, and 1780.
IN SEARCH OF A
NORTH-WEST PASSAGE
Between the Continents of ASIA and AMERICA.
INCLUDING
A faithful Account of all their DISCOVERIES, and the unfortunate Death of Captain COOK.
By W. ELLIS,
ASSISTANT SURGEON TO BOTH VESSELS.

ON February 14th, 1776, the Reſolution and Diſcovery were put in Commiſſion, and the Pendants hoiſted. After undergoing a thorough repair, &c. in the dry dock, they were moored along ſide the hulk, and continued in that ſituation, taking in their neceſſary ſtores, till the 12th of May, when the Diſcovery fell down to Galleons. Some days after the Reſolution followed, and anchored in Long Reach, and the Diſcovery having received her gunner's ſtores on board, proceeded to the ſame place, and after a ſhort ſtay, both veſſels fell down to the Nore, where the Reſolution remained. The Diſcovery had orders to make the beſt of her way to Plymouth, but contrary winds having obliged her to put into Portland, it was near a week before ſhe arrived there.

About a fortnight after, the Reſolution anchored in the Sound. From this time to July 12th, every body was aſſiduouſly employed in completing her ſtock, when, in the afternoon of the ſame day, ſhe weighed, and made ſail for the Cape of Good Hope. The Diſcovery was equally prepared for ſea; but Captain Clerke's affairs detained him in town a conſiderable time after, and he did not arrive in Plymouth till the firſt of Auguſt.

In the afternoon ſhe got up her anchor, and made ſail likewiſe for the Cape. On the 7th in the morning, they ſaw Cape Finiſterre, bearing S. S. E. ½ E. diſtant five or ſix leagues, and in the afternoon of the 13th ſaw Porto Sancto, and the next day Madeira. On the 26th and 27th, paſſed the iſlands Sal, St. Nicholas, and Bonaviſta, and early the next morning ſtood in for Porto Praya bay, as Captain Clerke was not without hopes of finding the Reſolution there.

They now ſoon loſt the N. E. trade wind, it ſhifting to the S. W. but upon approaching the equinoctial, it gradually veered round to the S. E. September 24th, in the evening, the corporal of marines fell overboard and was drowned. October 31ſt, about two in the afternoon, they ſaw the appearance of land, which from its bearings, &c. they ſtrongly ſuſpected was the Table Hill, or ſome of the high land near it; but the next day a heavy gale of wind aroſe from the S. E. and continued to blow with great violence, till the 8th of November, when it became more moderate, and ſhifted to the S. W. The next morning, to their great joy, they ſaw the Table Hill bearing E. by S. and at 11 at night, having very light airs, anchored, but immediately after a heavy ſquall from the ſouthward came on, and drove the Diſcovery, in ſpight of her anchor, towards Penguin Iſland, which circumſtance obliged her to weigh it again and make ſail. At one in the morning, having ſtood over to the S. E. ſide of the bay, ſhe came to, and at ſix weighed; and with the aſſiſtance of her boats got ſafe in about nine, when ſhe ſaluted the fort with thirteen guns, which was returned with an equal number, and the Reſolution, overjoyed at ſeeing her long expected conſort, ſaluted with nine guns.

The daily occurrences at the Cape were ſo little intereſting and entertaining (being nothing more than refitting the ſhips, repairing the rigging, receiving on board ſtores and proviſions, as not to require a relation of them; it therefore will be only neceſſary to ſay, that by the 30th of November, both veſſels were ready for ſea. The next day (December 1ſt) at five in the afternoon, we weighed and made ſail; and having ſaluted the fort, ſtood out of Table Bay. When clear of the land, we ſteered a S. S. E. and S. E. courſe, it being Captain Cook's intention to aſcertain the reality of ſome land to the ſouthward, which was ſaid to be diſcovered by Monſieur Kerguelen, and which he had in vain ſought for in his laſt voyage. The French charts were unluckily incorrect, for the Reſolution, in her tract, paſſed over the very ſpot where it was ſaid to exiſt.

As we approached the ſouthern parts, we by degrees found great alteration in the weather, which now became very cold, with thick fogs, rain, and ſtrong gales of wind, and coughs and colds were general in both ſhips. On the 16th we deſcried land, which, upon a nearer view, proved to be two ſmall iſlands, affording at a diſtance a rocky, barren, and dreary proſpect, and almoſt ſurrounded with fogs; the more lofty parts were covered with ſnow. Upon a nearer view, we ſaw a few trees upon the low ground, but they were thinly ſcattered.

Theſe, which were called Prince Edward's Iſles, with three or four others farther to the eaſtward, were firſt diſcovered by Monſieur Marion in 1774 and 1775. The eaſtern ones lie in latitude 46 deg. 35 min. ſouth, and longitude 37 deg. 51 min. eaſt; the weſtern one 46 deg. 54 min, ſouth latitude, and 37 deg. 39 min. eaſt longitude.

We paſſed between them, and continued our courſe, and on the 24th at four in the morning again ſaw land, which proved to be that we were in queſt of. Our obſerved latitude at noon was 48 deg. 24 min. ſouth, and longitude 68 deg. 30 min. eaſt. At three in the afternoon, we diſcovered more land to the ſouthward, which was a continuation of the former. We now directed our courſe immediately for it, and at eight in the evening anchored in a ſmall bay, about half a mile from ſhore. The rocks were almoſt covered with penguins, and numbers of ſhags flew round us. Captain Cook immediately ordered out one of the boats, to ſee if they could diſcover a convenient watering-place, and to make likewiſe ſome obſervations upon the produce of the place. She returned about an hour after and the officer who went in her informed the captain, that there was a ſecure harbour, and that water might be procured from a fine ſtream with very little trouble. He further told him, that there were numbers of ſeals, ſea-bears, and penguins, and brought off ſeveral of the latter, as a proof of his aſſertion. This account induced the captain to ſtay a day or too; and early the next morning (the 25th) the anchors were weighed. The wind being directly againſt us, we were reduced to the neceſſity of ſtanding ſome way out to ſea, that we might have a greater ſcope to work to windward.

The Reſolution ſucceeded very well; but the Diſcovery being a good way out, it became for a time almoſt calm, which prevented her from getting in till near three in the afternoon, when ſhe dropped her anchor in twelve fathom water, the bottom muddy. When moored, the ſouthernmoſt point of the harbour bore S. E. ½ S.; the N. E. point E. by S. and the head of the harbour N. W. by W. our diſtance from ſhore about a quarter of a mile. The entrance, and indeed the harbour itſelf being very narrow, we were obliged to tack every minute.

As this place afforded a retreat for ſeals and ſea-bears, the captain determined to embrace the opportunity of ſupplying the ſhips with blubber, which we might afterwards convert to oil at our leiſure. This plan we found of the greateſt uſe to us in the courſe of our voyage, as our ſtock would otherwiſe have been quite exhauſted.

The next day (the 26th) parties were ſent out for this purpoſe, and in the ſpace of five or ſix hours had filled all the hogſheads we could ſpare. Some of our men brought ſeveral of the hearts of theſe animals on board, and a few declared them to be nearly as good eating as that of a bullock; but, in fact, we had not as yet experienced hungry bellies enough to induce us to reliſh them. On the 27th, we celebrated Chriſtmas day, when the ſailors had double allowance of grog. The next day (28th) we filled our water caſks, and brought, off a load or two of long coarſe graſs, which grew upon ſome low marſhy ground at the head of the harbour, for our ſtock. Soon after all thoſe animals which had eaten of it began to diſcover evident ſymptoms of pain and uneaſineſs, and ſome of their bodies became tenſe and ſwelled; in ſhort, ſeveral of them died. Captain Cook, alarmed at this, ordered every particle to be thrown away, concluding that ſomething poiſonous had been brought on board with it; but upon inveſtigating the matter more cloſely, it was found that our people had cut it upon a ſpot where a great number of penguins had been ſitting, and that a conſiderable quantity of their dung had been included in it. This was immediately pronounced to be the cauſe of their death, and ſeveral ſimilar inſtances were related of cattle in England dying in conſequence of eating graſs on which ducks and geeſe had dunged. On the morning of the 29th we got under way, and proceeded along the eaſtern coaſt of this iſland, which is moderately low and even, and affords to appearance ſeveral very good harbours. Upon the approach of evening, the commodore made the Diſcovery's ſignal to take the lead, and look out for a proper place to anchor in for the night, and ſuch a one being found, we anchored in ſixteen fathom, muddy bottom, about a quarter of a mile from ſhore.

In this day's run, we were not without our apprehenſions; being obliged to paſs through many extenſive fields (if I may be allowed the expreſſion) of ſea weed, (*fucus gigartinus*, Lin.) and as they generally indicate a rocky neighbourhood, we were fearful of meeting with ſome of thoſe dangerous obſtructions.

The ſhips were no ſooner ſecured than Captain Cook ordered out the pinnace, and went on ſhore on the eaſtern ſide, while the Diſcovery's ſmall cutter, with the maſter, was ſent to a ſmall iſland to the weſtward, to take the bearings and diſtances of the different remarkable points of land. The ſeals and ſea-bears were more numerous than at the laſt place, and ſome of them much larger. The next morning (the 30th) we weighed, and made ſail, and after coaſting ſome time, in order to aſcertain the extent of the land, we ſtood to the eaſtward, ſhaping our courſe for Van Diemen's Land.

This iſland was firſt diſcovered by Monſieur Kergue-